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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/689,842	10/13/2000	Arthur R. Halbritter	100.020US1	6662
65375	7590	10/18/2007	EXAMINER	
WMS GAMING (DELIZIO GILLIAM)				LE, LINH GIANG
C/O DELIZIO GILLIAM, PLLC				ART UNIT
15201 MASON ROAD				PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1000-312				3626
CYPRESS, TX 77433				MAIL DATE
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				10/18/2007
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/689,842	HALBRITTER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michelle Linh-Giang Le	3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16,30-45,54-57 and 71-78 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-16,30-45,54-57 and 71-78 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 091107

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to Amendment filed 30 July 2007. Claims 1, 5, 30, 36-45, 54-57, and 72 are amended. Claims 17-29, 46-53 and 58-70 are canceled. Claims 1-16, 30-45, 54-57 and 71-78 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-16, 30-45, 54-57 and 71-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lans (5,506,587) in view of Chuang (5,987,421).

4. As per claim 1, Lans teaches a method for locating a patron at a hospitality facility including a server and a plurality of client terminals, the method comprising:
receiving, from one of the plurality of client terminals, a patron identifier identifying a particular patron and a location identifier identifying a location (Lans; Col. 8, lines 26-45).

Storing, by the server, the location identifier in an account corresponding to the particular patron identified by the patron identifier (Lans; Col. 9, lines 16-25 and Col. 9,

line 44 to Col. 10 line 6). Examiner submits that the “user directory” that includes “identities” and “positions” reads upon an “account” affiliated with a patron. Each “identity” in a “user directory” represents a patron “account.”

Retrieving by the server from the account corresponding to the particular patron the location identifier for the particular patron (Lans; Lans; Col. 9, lines 16-25 and Col. 9, line 44 to Col. 10 line 17); and

sending a message based on the location identifier for the particular patron (Lans; Col. 9, lines 35-38).

Lans does not expressly teach the above method steps in a hospitality facility or receiving, from another of the plurality of client terminals, a request for the location of the particular patron. However, these features are well known in the art as evidenced by Chuang. IN particular, Chuang teaches a GID device for transmitting a signal to locate another guest in a hospitality facility (Chuang Col. 11, lines 48-65). It would have been obvious to add these features to the Lans teaching with the motivation of allowing park visitors to search for the location, distance and direction of other group members within a hospitality facility (Chuang; Abstract).

5. As per claim 2 Chuang teaches wherein sending a message includes sending, to the client terminal, directions to a location corresponding to the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 6-12).

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6. As per claim 3, Chuang teaches wherein sending a message includes sending, to the client terminal, a map with directions to a location corresponding to the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 12-20).

7. As per claim 4, Chuang teaches wherein sending a map includes deriving the map from a location identifier corresponding to the client terminal and the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 1-20).

8. As per claim 5, Chuang teaches wherein sending a message comprises sending the message to the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 6-12).

9. As per claims 6-8, Chuang does not expressly teach:

wherein sending a message comprises sending, to the particular patron, a message for a rendezvous.

wherein sending a message comprises sending, to the particular patron, a status message indicating the status of an offline game.

sending a message comprising sending, to the particular patron, a promotional message.

However these features are obvious variations of the Chuang teachings.

Chuang teaches a "message" feature in the GID device (Chuang; Col. 9, lines 14-21).

Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of

networking the entire guest population and also increasing the business throughout the park (Col. 4, lines 8-20).

10. As per claims 9 and 10, Chuang does not expressly teach:
 - receiving from a client terminal a request for an address book; and sending the address book to the client terminal;
 - receiving a request for the location of a particular patron comprises receiving a selection of the particular patron from the address book.

However these features are obvious variations of the Chuang teachings.

Chuang teaches locating a particular GID device of a patron (Chuang; Col. 11, line 47 to Col. 12, line 20). Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of providing visitors with the ability of finding out the exact location, distance and direction of another member of the same group (Chuang; Col. 6, lines 43-46).

11. As per claims 11-16, Chuang does not expressly teach:
 - Wherein sending a message comprises sending an e-mail message;
 - Wherein sending a message comprises sending an instant message;
 - Wherein sending a message comprises sending a broadcast message to the plurality of client terminals;
 - Wherein sending a broadcast message includes sending a missing patron;

Wherein sending a broadcast message comprises sending a promotional message to the plurality of client terminals; and

Wherein sending a broadcast message comprises sending a notification message to the plurality of client terminals.

However these features are obvious variations of the Chuang teachings.

Chuang teaches a "message" feature in the GID device (Chuang; Col. 9, lines 14-21).

Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of networking the entire guest population and also increasing the business throughout the park (Col. 4, lines 8-20).

12. Claims 30-35 repeat the of limitations of claims 1-16 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

13. As per claims 36-45, Lans teaches a computer-readable medium containing instructions (Col. 9, lines 1-25) for locating a patron. The remaining features of claims 36-45 repeat limitations of claims 1-16 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

14. Claims 54-57 repeat the limitations of claims 36-45 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

15. Claims 71-78 repeat the limitations of claims 1-16 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

17. Examiner notes that the new reference Lans clearly teaches storing and retrieving *by the server* patron information (Lans; Col. 9, lines 16-25). Lans further teaches a "user directory" with an updated list of identities and positions of participants. Examiner believes this clearly reads upon a patron "account" as both serve the purpose of keeping information related to a certain patron or participant organized.

Conclusion

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Linh-Giang Le whose telephone number is 571-272-8207. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 5PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-3600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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LLe


C. LUKE GILLIGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600